

Complain Better

Week of June 4, 2017

Rule #2

Habakkuk 1:12-2:20 • Message 2

Icebreaker

How did your complaining go this week?

Habakkuk's Second Complaint (1:12-2:1)

What observations do you have concerning Habakkuk's second complaint?

On Sunday, I pointed out three contradictions that Habakkuk was bringing to God: (1) God made an eternal promise to his people, but now he's bringing judgment on them; (2) God is pure and holy, but he is tolerating the evil of the Babylonians; and (3) God is using Babylon to judge Judah, but Judah is more righteous than the Babylonians. Would those things bother you?

Have you ever felt like something about God was contradictory?

In Habakkuk's case, what he saw as contradictions was really him failing to understand some of the very basic promises of God that his people weren't exempt from judgment, that he always gave grace for a time, and that his standard isn't "better" but "perfect." In light of what Habakkuk should have remembered about God, do you think he was right to complain? If so, why, if not, what attitude should he have taken?

What do you think of this: ***Our problem understanding God is not God's fault.***

God's Second Answer (2:2-20)

God's answer comes in three parts we can summarize like this: (1) God may delay his plan, but it will definitely come; (2) God is fully aware of what people do; (3) God's coming judgment will be glorious and right. Do those things give you any reassurance?

What do you think of the final phrase of his answer in verse 20?

God is clearly reaffirming that he is completely in charge, and he will bring judgment on anyone who deserves it. No one is exempt, but there's the little phrase in 2:4 that gives a ray of hope. Consider how Paul quotes that verse in Rom. 1:16-17 and Gal. 3:10-14. What difference does faith/faithfulness make?

Rule #2

Last week, we learned our rule from Habakkuk's example of bringing his complaint to God. This week, we learn our rule by recognizing that Habakkuk's complaint was based on a failed understanding of God. What does this week's rule mean to you? How would this rule affect how you complain?

***Walk by faith in God's authority, his coming judgment,
and his unbelievable grace.***

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